

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8544

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UNCLAS BUCHAREST 1811

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL RO

SUBJ: SMITHSONIAN BICENTENNIAL FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL:

ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION

FOR CU/MINNICH AND IEE QUINN FROM AMBASSADOR BARNES

REF: STATE A-2822 APRIL 5

1. WHILE I HAD HOPED TO HAVE SOME DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR BOGDAN REGARDING ROMANIAN PLANS FOR SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL DURING LATTER'S CONSULTATIONS HERE, WE WERE NOT ABLE TO GET TOGETHER AGAIN JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE EARLIER THIS WEEK. I DO KNOW FROM CHECKS WITH THE MFA AND THE COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION THAT ROMANIAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED IN RALPH RINZLER'S DECEMBER 18 LETTER TO BOGDAN SQUARES BY AND LARGE WITH OUR OWN, E.E., THAT ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IS ENVISAGED AS TWO-PRONG EFFORT, ONE PART FOCUSED ON PERFORMANCE OF A FOLK-MUSIC GROUP DURING THE MALL FESTIVITIES JULY 2-14 AND THE OTHER A COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVING THE PRESENCE OF SMITHSONIAN FIELD RESEARCHERS IN ROMANIA ITSELF.

2. LESS CLEAR, HERE HOWEVER, IS EXTENT TO WHICH ROMANIA, IN THE LIMITED TIME NOW AVAILABLE BEFORE THE FESTIVAL BEGINS, HAS

MOVED FORWARD IN ACTUAL PREPARATIONS FOR SUCH PARTICIPATION. (TRANSATLANTIC TRAVEL EXPENSE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP IN PARTICULAR APPEARS TO BE PROBLEM ALTHOUGH ARRANGEMENTS ON UNCLASSIFIED

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TAROM SERVICE MAY COME IN TIME TO HELP). SINCE ROMANIAN PARTI-

CIPATION WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL ADJUNCT TO BILATERAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM, I WOULD LIKE TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE SUCH INVOLVEMENT.

3. WITH THIS IN MIND, I REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT AND/OR SMITHSONIAN NOW CONTACT ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO DETERMINE PRESENT STATE-OF-PLAY. AT SAME TIME, BELIEVE THAT QUERYING MIHAI POP ALONG SAME LINES MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL. POP IS VISITING ROMANIAN PROFESSOR ASSIGNED TO DEPARTMENT OF FOLKLORE AND ANTHROPOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IN BERKELEY AND CAN PROBABLY BE REACHED BY PHONE ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT HEAD ALAN DUNDES. GOR OFFICIALS HERE REPORT THAT POP IS PRINCIPAL INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN ROMANIAN EMBASSY AND FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS AND WOULD BE IN POSITION DETERMINE WHERE MATTERS PRESENTLY STAND.

4. WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN HAND FROM ABOVE SOURCES, I WOULD BE WILLING TO PUSH ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION HERE; WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE TIMELY RESPONSE TO THIS CABLE.
BARNES

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